



St. Maarten High Councils visit Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Representatives of St. Maarten's High Councils of State and Advisory Council met with Aruba's Court of Audit, Advisory Council, the Social Economic Council SER and President of the Aruba Parliament during the first day of their fact-finding mission on Tuesday. The delegation later met with Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman in his offices. The trip was organised by the St. Maarten Department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

Aruba Court of Audit President Gabriel Werleman and Vice President Frederick Nuboer met the delegation.

Aruba Court of Audit has existed since that island attained country within the kingdom status in 1986. The Aruban expressed enthusiasm about forging cooperative ties with St. Maarten's Councils and to exchange ideas with St. Maarten.

The St. Maarten delegation met again on Wednesday with the Court of Audit representatives and discussed in depth technical issues of interest.

Subsequent to the Tuesday's meeting with the Court of Audit, the delegation met with members of the Aruba Advisory Council. Receiving the St. Maarten delegation were Chairman A.J. Swaen, members J.R. Tchong and John S. Kuiperdal and other members. Aruba Advisory Council Vice Secretary A. Braamskamp and Secretary Hellen van der Wal were also present. Topics discussed included the similarity and differences of the councils and possible areas for future collaboration.



On Wednesday, the dialogue continued and included other technical topics of mutual interest.

The introductory meetings continued Tuesday afternoon with the members of the Aruban Social Economic Council receiving the delegation. Rob de Zwart along with the secretariat and members of the Council provided a short outline of the history of the Aruba council and approach to the advisory responsibilities.

Topics that were reviewed included the Aruban experience in advising on tax related issues. The need and value of professionals including economists within the secretariat of the Council was also discussed. Availability of expertise has proven essential to the quality of the advisory capacity of all the Council on Aruba, according to a press statement from the St. Maarten delegation. To round out the day's schedule, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Aruba Parliament Pauldrick Croes. The delegation exchanged information about the efforts to build the



Higher Councils of State in St. Maarten and received a briefing from Croes about innovations within the Aruba Parliament and how these relate to the relationship with the Aruban High Councils of State. Members of the St. Maarten delegation are Chairman of the General Audit Chamber Roland Tuitt, Advisory Council Vice President Mavis Brooks-Salomon, Advisory Council member Dennis Richardson, and SER representative Clarence Richardson, Audit Chamber Secretary General

Joane Dovale-Meit, Arjen Alberts of the Department of General Affairs and Kingdom Relations, and Project Leader for "Establishment Higher Councils of State" Pyt Lucas.

The working visit to Aruba and Curaçao is financed in part by Dutch development funds, managed by USONA as part of the project "Establishment of the Higher Councils of State." The delegation returns home on Saturday, February 19.

Credit to The Daily Herald of St. Maarten. □